

## **REMARKS**

The Examiner's comments from the Office Action mailed December 27, 2006 have been carefully considered. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-19, 42-48, 50-70, 72 and 73 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 50, 72, and 73 have been amended. Editorial revisions also have been made to claims 8 and 52. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and figures, e.g., in FIGS. 1, 21, and 22. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

### **Objections to the Specification**

The specification is objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "branch stent deployment device" in claims 8, 52, 72, and 73. Applicants respectfully submit the objection is overcome. One non-limiting example of a branch stent deployment device is described on page 11, line 28 through page 12, line 3 and is shown in FIG. 6. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

### **Objections to the Drawings**

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) for failing to identify the "branch stent deployment device" and the "side member" as individual elements. Applicants respectfully submit the objection is overcome. One non-limiting example of a branch stent deployment device is described on page 11, line 28 through page 12, line 3 and is shown in FIG. 6 at reference number 50. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection. Applicants note one non-limiting example of a side member is shown at reference number 14 in FIG. 4.

### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-19, 42-48, 50-56, 58-70 and 72-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Colombo (U.S. Patent No. 6,520,988) alone. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a side member disposed adjacent and fixedly attached to at least one location on a catheter proximal a stent.

In contrast, Colombo discloses a side member that is held in place adjacent to the catheter by a stent. Colombo does not disclose or suggest a side member fixedly attached to at least one location on a catheter proximal the stent. Furthermore, no motivation is provided in Colombo to attach the side member to the catheter at such a location.

For at least these reasons, Colombo would not lead a person having skill in the art to the invention of claim 1. Claims 3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-19, and 42-48 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-19, and 42-48 is respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 50 recites, in part, a side member coupled to a catheter at a location proximal a stent and distal of the proximal end of the side member.

Applicants assert Colombo does not disclose or suggest a side member coupled to a catheter at a location proximal a stent and distal of the proximal end of the side member for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Colombo would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 50. Claims 51-56 and 58-70 depend from claim 50 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 51-56 and 58-70 is respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 72 recites, in part, a side member fixedly attached to at least one location on a catheter that is proximal a stent.

Applicants assert Colombo does not disclose or suggest a side member fixedly attached to the catheter at a location that is proximal a stent for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Colombo would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 72. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 72 is respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 73 recites, in part, a side member being coupled to a catheter proximal of a first and second catheter radiopaque markers that are positioned on the catheter.

Colombo does not disclose or suggest a side member being coupled to a catheter proximal of the first and second catheter radiopaque markers. Colombo does not even disclose or suggest two catheter radiopaque markers. Colombo cannot suggest positioning of an attachment point between the catheter and the side member relative to such markers.

For at least these reasons, Colombo would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 73. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 73 is respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 14 and 57 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colombo and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,851,464 to Davila et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

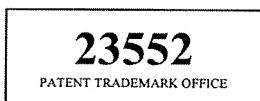
Claim 14 depends from claim 1 and claim 57 depends from claim 50. Claims 14 and 57, therefore, are allowable over Colombo for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 50. Davila does not overcome the shortcomings of Colombo. Davila also does not disclose or suggest a side member fixedly attached to the catheter at a location that is proximal the stent. Moreover, Davila does not disclose or suggest a side member coupled to a catheter at a location proximal a stent and distal of the proximal end of the side member.

For at least these reasons, Colombo would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claims 14 and 57, even in view of Davila. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 14 and 57 is respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

**Conclusion**


In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any further issues related to this matter, please contact Applicants' attorney listed below at 612-371-5387.

Respectfully submitted,



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